

U.S. Patent Application of MAEDA
Serial No.: 09/111,578
Art Unit: 2878

claim 21, lines 2-3, delete "use for receiving the light guided into the cassette to detect the leading and entraining ends of the magnetic tape";

claim 21, lines 4-5, delete "and a reflection plate for reflecting the light downwards from above the deck chassis is provided above the deck chassis".

Claim 22, line 3, change "engaged with on the" to - arranged on a - .

Claim 23, line 3, change "engaged with on the" to - arranged on a - .

Claim 24, line 3, change "engaged with on the" to - arranged on a - .

Claim 25, line 3, change "engaged with on the" to - arranged on a - .

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed January 14, 2000. The Examiner's comments in the Office Action have been carefully considered.

Applicant respectfully requests a three month extension of time, and requests that the extension fee of \$870.00 be charged to our account no. 10-0100.

The drawings have been objected to because the reference numeral "51b" does not appear in Fig. 2, although mentioned at pages 2 and 3 of the specification. Submitted herewith is a copy of Fig. 2, marked in red, to indicate the revision which is proposed to be made to overcome this objection. It will be noted that the reference numeral "51a" originally appeared twice in Fig. 2. The occurrence with the lead line proximate to the reel 10b on the right hand side of Fig. 2 should have been labeled "51b". This correction will be made at such time as this application has been allowed, subject to the approval of the Examiner.

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The specification has been objected to because of a number of minor informalities, and the Examiner has also required a more descriptive title. The informalities pointed out by the Examiner, as well as others which have been uncovered, have been corrected, and the title has been amended to be more clearly indicative of the invention as claimed.

In paragraph 6, on pages 3-4 of the Office Action, the Examiner has objected to various claims as being indefinite, for the reasons stated. All of the claims have been amended to overcome the objections raised by the Examiner.

Claim 1 has been rejected as being fully anticipated by the admitted art shown in Figs. 2-5 of the subject application as filed. Other claims have similarly been rejected, for reasons set forth in paragraph 8 of the Office Action, while still other claims have been rejected as being obvious on the basis of the admitted prior art for reasons set forth in paragraph 10 of the Office Action. For reasons more fully discussed below, the Examiner's prior art rejections are respectfully traversed, and the Examiner is requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections.

Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly define the invention by specifying that the light guiding member guides the light from the light emitting element below the deck chassis to a point above the chassis and thereafter to the light receiving element under the deck chassis by way of a light passing portion provided on the reel as well as an opening on the deck chassis. Referring to Fig. 1, the light guide member 63 is shown to extend from a point between the deck chassis 20 and the main substrate 30, aligned with the light emitting element 61. However, contrary to the prior art designs, a single element 63 is now used in the various detecting or

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sensing functions with a single component. In the prior art designs, numerous components were required to achieve the same function(s), and this rendered the design more complicated, more susceptible to malfunction as well as more costly to manufacture. The advantages of the present invention, as explained in the application, stem from providing the light guiding member 63 with a branch portion 63b which extends to a point in substantial juxtaposition with the disk portion 13 of the reel 10. By providing an opening 11 in the disk portion 13 and an opening 21 in the deck chassis 20, as shown, rotation of the reel 10 causes the openings 11 and 21 to become superimposed at least during certain times so that a light beam emanating from the branch portion 63 (at the tip thereof as shown) is redirected downwardly, as viewed in Fig. 1. The prior art embodiments illustrated in Figs. 2-5 do not read on amended claim 1. Thus, in Figs. 2 and 3, a plurality of components are required for transmitting light from the light transmitting element 41 through the deck chassis. In addition to using a light receiving element that projects above the deck chassis, numerous additional components are required. The light beams are not retransmitted to a point below the deck chassis and the main substrate, as in the present invention, nor is the light projected through openings in the disk portion of the reel as well as through the deck chassis. In Figs. 4 and 5, an additional light guiding member 52 is required to be used below the deck chassis 20, as is a sensor gear 53. As with the previous prior art embodiment, additional components or elements are required, and the light beam is not projected initially through the deck chassis and subsequently through openings in the disk portion of the reel as well as an opening in the deck chassis.

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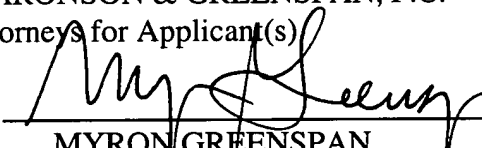
In view of the foregoing, it is believed that claim 1, particularly as amended, clearly distinguishes over the admitted prior art figures. Additionally, there is nothing in the prior art references to suggest that the detecting mechanism in accordance with the present invention would be obvious, in view of the prior art structures. There is nothing in these references that would suggest any of the modifications that would be required to arrive at the invention as now more clearly defined in amended claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance. Early allowance and issuance is, accordingly, respectfully solicited.

Dated: July 14, 2000

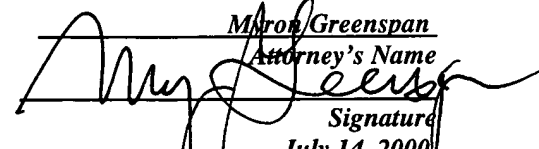
Respectfully submitted,

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MAILING CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Services as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the date indicated below:


Myron Greenspan
Attorney's Name
Signature
July 14, 2000
Date

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